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### **EDITORIAL NOTES.**

It is mighty seldom that a man has anything to present to a gathering of medical men which can not be said in ten, or at most, fifteen min-SHORT utes. Long, tiresome papers are a bur-PAPERS. den to the flesh of the listener and are of small profit to him. This is said with the next meeting of the State Society in mind and at the suggestion of some members of the Committee on Scientific Work. The reading of endless reports of cases has no place in the program of a learned society. The meat of the paper should be gathered into an abstract which will present the facts, and the tedious details, only useful for reference, comparison or subsequent study, should be published but not read. So, too, with the paper which deals with an elaborate history of some complication, compiled from the already enormous literature on the subject or based upon long quotations from other papers previously read. things are entirely out of place at the time of a meeting, though they are occasionally useful for reference. It is to be hoped that the papers at the next meeting of the Society will be short, sharp, sweet and to the point, and that the discussions will in the main follow the papers in these highly-to-bedesired characteristics. There are always those who seem to think it is essential that they have something of praise to say about every paper read. That is quite unnecessary. Some papers are poor and the truth would not hurt the author; it might help him. Some papers present nothing new, and while there might be some question as to their value on a program, there is none as to the valueless discussion which follows and also brings forth nothing new.

There are doubtless lots of physicians scattered about the State who have something to say, of experience or knowledge gained, that would be of profit and interest, and not infrequently they remain silent because others talk and say nothing. A full and free discussion of any topic that will bring out even an additional grain of knowledge, is by no means to be decried; far from it. Such discussions are the very lifeblood of scientific bodies and meetings and are in every way to be encouraged. Let us make a great effort to see that the papers at the next meeting of the Society are short and pithy, and that needless discussion gives place to general, short, crisp discussion of points raised that will bring forth new thoughts or bits of personal experience which will leave a lasting and a profitable impression with the members present.

The JOURNAL has been asked to call the attention of San Francisco physicians to some matters in

# PHYSICIANS AND NURSES.

which the nurses are interested; and, indeed, in which the physicians themselves are quite as much concerned. There exists

a Nurses' Directory which had its beginning shortly after the fire, and which has become more and more important and useful with the passage of time and an understanding of what it means and what a great convenience it is to both physician and nurse. It is controlled and conducted by the Nurses' Association and is for the benefit of the Association's members. The existence of the Directory has greatly simplified the means of communication between doctor and nurse. One of the rules of the institution is that a physician calling up the Directory for the purpose of securing a nurse, must give his name, the name of the patient, and the nature of the ailment. Strange to say, we are advised that, to this very excellent rule, some physicians object. Doubtless the objectors do not stop to think of a few things directly pertinent or they would not object. Nurses are, more or less, specializing. Some prefer to take only surgical, others obstetrical cases; some are peculiarly adapted for the care of children; others have a leaning toward fevers or complications requiring unusually strenuous work. And it is but natural that this should be so and consequently that the nature of the ailment should be known to the head of the Directory who is called upon to supply a nurse. Furthermore, and strange as it may seem to some, nurses are human beingsnot angels, except in fiction—and as such have feelings, likes, dislikes and prejudices. Some nurses can not get along with some physicians, any more than some physicians can avoid disliking some nurses; therefore, how foolish it would be, knowing these elemental characteristics of human nature, for the Directory not to require the name of the physician and thus avoid sending a nurse who would not be in accord with the personality of the physician in charge of the patient. This, we confess, seems to us so simple a matter as to make it incredible that anyone could look upon it otherwise than as a quite

Date of

cock is in no sense a pathfinder, he is a most efficient and reliable guide through the mazes of the Diseases of the Lungs. Except in the first section, the criterion of practicability is well met. Few books, of the scope of the present, have given us an equally good account of the Diseases of the Lungs; many have given a more lucid and practical exposition of Diseases of the Bronchi; and none had given us such a succinct and useful rendition of the Diseases of the Pleura, as the welcome book of Robert H. Babcock.

Progressive Medicine, Vol. III, September, 1907.

A Quarterly Digest of Advances, Discoveries and Improvements in the Medical and Surgical Sciences. Edited by Hobart Armory Hare, M. D.. Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. Octavo, 290 pages, with 15 engravings. Per annum, in four cloth-bound volumes, \$9.00; in paper binding, \$6.00, carriage paid to any address. Lea Brothers & Co., Publishers, Philadelphia and New York.

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